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Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1876 (2009), by which the Council established the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), and resolution 1949 (2010), by which it renewed the mandate of UNIOGBIS and requested me to report every four months on the situation in Guinea-Bissau and progress made in the implementation of the mandate. The report covers major developments that have occurred since my report of 17 June 2011 (S/2011/370).

II. Major developments in Guinea-Bissau

A. Political and security/military developments

2. During the reporting period, several demonstrations against the leadership of the country, in particular against the Prime Minister, Carlos Gomes Júnior, were launched by a "collective of opposition parties" led by the interim leader of the Party for Social Renewal (PRS) and Second Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Ibrahima Sory Djaló. They said their action had been triggered by, among other factors, the decision taken by the Prosecutor General in May 2011 to close investigations into a coup plot case allegedly involving former Minister of Territorial Administration Baciro Dabó and former Minister of Defence Hélder Proença, both of whom had been killed in June 2009. The Prosecutor General had concluded that allegations of their involvement in the coup attempt were baseless and had subsequently referred the case regarding the June 2009 assassinations to the military court.

3. In response to the Prosecutor General's decision, demonstrators and the collective of opposition parties, which includes PRS, the Republican Party for Independence and Development (PRID) and 15 opposition parties without representation in Parliament, called for the dismissal of the Prime Minister and condemned the President, Malam Bacai Sanhá, for not heeding their call. The interim leader of PRS, Mr. Djaló, also alleged that security sector reform targeted one ethnic group in particular and that the ongoing national conference process was

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not genuine. At a rally held in Gabú on 25 August, Mr. Djaló threatened the President, saying that his refusal to dismiss the Prime Minister would entail violence in the capital, including violence targeting the residence of the President.

4. In reaction to the campaign of the opposition, the ruling African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde reiterated on 11 July its support for the Prime Minister, who is also the party's leader. At a rally later that day to mark the party's fifty-fifth anniversary, the Prime Minister denounced the opposition's campaign and denied any involvement in the June 2009 political violence. He underlined the need for national reconciliation and called on the opposition to engage in dialogue on political issues.

5. On 11, 12 and 13 July, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Raimundo Pereira, in his capacity as interim President in the absence of President Sanhá, held a series of meetings with the leadership of the armed forces, the opposition parties and civil society organizations in order to defuse the mounting tensions between the opposition and the Government. Following those meetings, the Human Rights League of Guinea-Bissau called on the national authorities to respect the right to engage in peaceful demonstrations and stressed the need to respect the separation of powers and the presumption of innocence. Subsequently, on 20 July, the Prime Minister called on the Prosecutor General to investigate violent actions against his family allegedly committed on the margins of the 19 July demonstrations by the collective of opposition parties. At its 21 July meeting, the Council of Ministers reaffirmed its support for the Prime Minister and condemned as defamatory the attacks launched against him.

6. Upon his return to Bissau on 25 July, the President embarked on intensive consultations with national and international stakeholders on the evolving political situation. Following their meetings with the President, PRS and PRID continued to insist on the dismissal of the Prime Minister, while the Democratic Alliance and the New Democracy Party argued that political differences should be aired in Parliament and that the country did not need further instability. The leader of the Democratic Alliance, Victor Mandinga, opposed changing the Government and suggested that the investigations into the 2009 political assassinations be conducted by the international community.

7. On 1 August, the President issued a decree replacing the Prosecutor General, Amine Saad, with the Deputy Director of the Judiciary Police, Edmundo Mendes. This decision did not defuse the tensions with the opposition, which continued to insist that the Prime Minister assume responsibility for the lack of progress in the investigations into the June 2009 assassinations and resign. The Council of State was convened by the President on 2 August and recommended dialogue as the means to preserve stability in the country.

8. On 9 August, the President issued a statement in which he concluded that although there were political differences, the country did not face a political or social crisis requiring changes to the "normal functioning of State institutions". He also noted that the demonstrations had interrupted one of the longest periods of calm in recent years, and reaffirmed his commitment to fighting impunity and corruption and promoting justice, with respect for the principle of the separation of powers. He pledged to do his utmost to ensure the conclusion of the investigations into the March and June 2009 assassinations, and called on all political actors to engage in constructive dialogue to preserve the country's fragile political stability and social

peace. In a letter dated 11 August, the Government urged the newly appointed Prosecutor General to clarify the status of the investigations into the June 2009 assassinations and stated that the conclusions of the Commission of Inquiry regarding the coup plot case had not been officially conveyed to the Government. At the same time, the President continued his consultations with national stakeholders by convening the leadership of the armed forces and regional commanders to discuss the political situation and the security sector reform process. The consultations began on 19 August and concluded on 23 August. On 26 August, the President announced a Government reshuffle that affected mainly the portfolios of Foreign Affairs, the Interior, Defence and Justice. At a ceremony held on 4 October to swear in the newly appointed Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Justice and Tourism, as well as the Secretary of State for Fisheries, the President reaffirmed his confidence that the Government led by the Prime Minister would serve its term until the end of the current legislature, in November 2012.

9. In reaction to those worrisome political developments, a group of approximately 1,500 young people from the Youth Movement for Peace and Stability demonstrated in Bissau on 11 August, appealing to political actors to pursue dialogue.

10. My Special Representative, Joseph Mutaboba, for his part, maintained contact with national authorities. He also met with the collective of opposition parties on 29 July at their request. On 2 September, he released a statement calling on all national stakeholders, including opposition parties, to refrain from actions and statements likely to fuel tensions.

11. Meanwhile, on 18 July, the Council of the European Union announced the conclusions of the consultations opened on 29 March with the Government of Guinea-Bissau under article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement. The Council set out a road map for the gradual resumption of development cooperation with the country, while the European Union will continue to provide assistance directly benefiting the population.

12. The European Union agreed to lift its suspension of support for projects and programmes in the areas of conflict prevention, water and energy, the management of road transportation and the private sector if the Government of Guinea-Bissau complied with the following conditions: (a) the submission of a timetable for the implementation of the Government's undertakings on the security sector reform road map developed by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries; (b) the finalization, adoption, enactment and publication of the security sector reform legislative package; (c) the approval and assistance of an expert mission to support security sector reform and the protection of political figures; and (d) the effective implementation of national operational plans on security sector reform and on strategies for combating drug trafficking and money-laundering. The disbursement of the first contribution of the European Development Fund to the pension fund for retired military and police personnel was made conditional on: (a) the Government and ECOWAS also contributing to the pension fund; (b) the successful conclusion of fully independent judicial investigations into the March and June 2009 political assassinations; and (c) improvements in the administrative and financial management of public, civilian and military employees. The European Union also agreed to support the justice sector and the reform of civilian and military administration, once Guinea-Bissau:

(a) had implemented national operational plans on security sector reform and on measures to combat drug trafficking and money-laundering; (b) had commenced judicial investigations and proceedings into the 1 April 2010 events; and (c) had reviewed the military hierarchy to ensure that only persons not involved in unconstitutional or illegal conduct or acts of violence were appointed to senior command positions.

13. Meanwhile, the preparatory regional meetings for the national conference continued, with consultations held in Quínara and Tombali from 24 to 26 June, in Bafatá, Gabú, Biombo and Bolama/Bijagós from 15 to 17 July, and in Cachéu and Oio from 22 to 24 July. Those discussions broached the topics of national identity and sovereignty; democracy and the political organization of the State; impunity and the rule of law; and the relationship between the people and the armed forces, justice, human security and development. The conference in the autonomous sector of Bissau is expected to be held by the end of October, while the national conference itself is likely to take place in early December.

14. During the reporting period, under the Voz di Paz (Voice of Peace) grass-roots participatory dialogue initiative, a study was conducted in the regions of Oio and Bolama/Bijagós and parts of Quínara and Tombali as part of the second phase of the research programme of the initiative. The study examines the root causes of conflict in four thematic areas, including insecurity of people, poverty, access to justice and the political dimension of tribalism.

15. The reporting period also witnessed the launch of awareness-raising activities on 4 and 5 August by members of the youth platform for inter-ethnic dialogue in the communities of Djaal and Mbassine, in the region of Biombo, where violent inter-community conflict over access to land had erupted in June, killing two people.

B. Economic and social developments

16. The Government continued to implement public administration and public finance reforms. Inflation remained at 4 per cent, owing to high import prices of fuel and food, exceeding the West African Economic Monetary Union's target of 2 per cent. However, it is expected to meet the Union's targets in 2012.

17. Rising food prices remained a matter of great concern, especially for consumers and trade unions. While prices reflected international trends, the Government sought to identify solutions in consultation with the private sector. On 19 June, the Ministry of Commerce and the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Services jointly facilitated a meeting with the business community, including importers and retailers, to discuss the need to stabilize prices.

18. A mission from the African Development Bank visited Bissau from 15 to 28 July to participate in consultations with the Government within the framework of the drafting of the Bank's 2011-2015 country strategy paper, the economic and financial reform support programme and the economic and financial capacity-building support project. The mission also sought to close the Bank's economic management capacity-building project covering the period 2005-2010. Furthermore, a mission from the International Monetary Fund visited Bissau from 8 to 21 September to assess progress made on structural reforms undertaken by the Government and to discuss the finalization of the 2012 budget.

19. The second national poverty reduction strategy paper was completed and formally endorsed by the Government on 5 July. On 5 August, the Government convened a meeting with the international community to present the concept note and road map for the organization of a fund-raising round table on the paper, expected to take place in Brussels during the first quarter of 2012. With technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Government is preparing its priority action plan, which is expected to be finalized in October 2011.

20. During his visit to Guinea-Bissau on 30 and 31 August, the Vice-President of South Africa, Kgalema Petrus Motlanthe, signed a cooperation agreement with the Government concerning the health sector. The agreement envisages tripartite cooperation among Guinea-Bissau, South Africa and Cuba to control malaria and improve the capacity of health workers in Guinea-Bissau. Discussions with national authorities also focused on enhancing cooperation in the areas of education, security sector reform, telecommunications, agriculture and fisheries.

21. Following a request from the Prime Minister, the World Food Programme (WFP), as current Chair of the Working Group on Food Security and Nutrition, convened two extraordinary meetings of the Working Group on 9 August and 9 September to discuss the impact of late, erratic and low rainfall in 2011 on food security for the most vulnerable. The Working Group comprises national and international stakeholders working in the area of food security. A contingency plan based on three possible scenarios is being prepared with support from a core group comprising the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the European Union.

22. On 22 June, the Ministry of Health, with support from the World Health Organization, approved a national strategic document for action on the social determinants of health in Guinea-Bissau. The strategy is aimed at ensuring health equality, improving the health conditions of citizens, reducing preventable diseases and premature deaths, and promoting health and safe behaviour. Meanwhile, a national HIV/AIDS prevalence survey, finalized in July by the National Institute of Public Health with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), shows a national prevalence rate of 3.3 per cent, with 4.8 per cent for women and 1.6 per cent for men. WFP has finalized the protocol on nutrition for people living with HIV, which was validated at a seminar led by the Ministry of Health and the national service for the fight against HIV/AIDS. On 25 July, the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the United Nations launched a joint programme on HIV/AIDS for the period 2011-2012, aimed at strengthening the national response to HIV/AIDS in the areas of prevention, care and treatment, nutrition, monitoring and evaluation, and governance and coordination.

23. After the awarding of a grant from the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNICEF intensified the mobilization of complementary financial support to assist the Ministry of Health in organizing preparatory activities ahead of a mass insecticide and mosquito net distribution campaign, as part of its campaign to control malaria in Guinea-Bissau. A total of 880,939 nets will be distributed during the campaign from 1 to 4 November 2011 to ensure universal coverage of the population.

24. The Government launched a multiple indicator cluster survey on 4 October. The survey of child indicators, carried out with the support of UNICEF and the

United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shows major achievements compared with 2006. School enrolment, vaccination coverage, prenatal care and the use of mosquito nets have all improved significantly during the past four years, and overall infant and child mortality rates have declined substantially. However, birth registration has declined and female genital mutilation has increased during this period. These indicators are crucial to ensure that the Government can monitor the implementation of the second national poverty reduction strategy paper and progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

III. Implementation of the mandate of the Office

A. Strengthening the capacities of national institutions and support for inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation

25. Within the framework of the national conference process, UNDP and UNIOGBIS continued to lend technical support to the organizing committee of the national conference. In that context, a workshop was held on 22 June to enhance the capacity of the committee with regard to the methodology to be followed throughout the conference. In addition, the United Nations is providing technical advice on the design of the next steps for the national conference, including the drafting of related documents, resource mobilization and the development of a post-conference follow-up mechanism.

26. As part of ongoing support for the constitutional review process, UNIOGBIS met with the Speaker of the National Assembly, members of the Parliamentary Commission for the Review of the Constitution, and the Faculty of Law of Bissau. Subsequently, the 2010 project document outlining UNIOGBIS support was revised and the roles of stakeholders, the framework for support and the timeline for future activities clarified. The Parliamentary Commission will share and discuss publicly the first draft of the revised Constitution with a wide range of national stakeholders through a broad consultative process. The Faculty of Law of Bissau will, in addition to facilitating the discussions, provide technical support to the committee of experts working on the draft. It is expected that the drafting will be completed by the end of 2011.

27. On 11 July, UNDP and the Supreme Electoral Court of Brazil signed a memorandum of understanding at the headquarters of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries in Lisbon for the implementation of the Project in Support of the Electoral Cycles of the Portuguese-speaking African Countries and Timor-Leste, funded by the European Union. The project is aimed at strengthening the capacities of the electoral management bodies of Guinea-Bissau and other Portuguese-speaking African countries through technical assistance. Furthermore, as part of the UNDP strategy for strengthening the legislative capacity of the National Assembly's permanent commissions, the Speaker approved the launching, on 25 July, of a training-the-trainers programme to develop the commissions' legislative expertise.

B. Support for the police, internal security and criminal justice systems within a holistic security sector reform process

28. The first phase of the vetting and certification process targeting police institutions, which was launched in February, was completed on 6 July. With technical and financial assistance from UNIOGBIS, the National Technical Independent Mixed Commission in charge of the process finalized the registration of 3,024 police officers, including 407 female and 2,617 male officers, from the Public Order Police, immigration services, the border guard, the firefighter department and the security information service. The selection process was completed on 29 September.

29. The first model police station, in the Bissau suburb of Bairro Militar, established with the support of UNIOGBIS, was inaugurated on 12 September and is now operational. Twelve additional model police stations will be built throughout Guinea-Bissau with support from the Peacebuilding Fund.

30. The Council of Ministers has yet to approve draft legislation on the protection of witnesses and special persons, which was prepared with support from UNIOGBIS in partnership with the Office of the Prosecutor General and the United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

31. On 5 July, UNDP completed a training course for legal aid assistants who will work in the four UNDP-funded Access to Justice Centres in Bissau and the regions of Cachéu and Oio, and in the Office for Legal Information and Consultation in Bissau. On 28 July, UNDP signed a grant agreement with the Human Rights League of Guinea-Bissau under which 30 people will work as legal aid assistants in the Access to Justice Centres and provide community-level information, training and legal guidance. In addition, more than 150 radio programmes on human rights issues and access to justice will be broadcast. The Office for Legal Information and Consultation is responsible for coordinating the Access to Justice Centres, which seek to guarantee access to the justice system for vulnerable groups.

32. The three civil conflict prevention brigades set up in the Biombo, Oio and Cachéu regions with UNDP support began their activities in July, specifically to raise awareness of the need to deal with local conflicts peacefully.

C. Security sector reform coordination

33. During the reporting period, my Special Representative pursued his advocacy of the swift implementation of the ECOWAS-Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries road map in support of security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau, including the operationalization of the pension fund for members of the armed forces and the police. To that end, he held a series of consultations with national and international stakeholders, including the President, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence and the leadership of the armed forces. He also convened meetings with international partners in Dakar and Bissau on 18 and 29 July, respectively, at which all partners agreed on the need to rapidly activate support plans for the reforms in Guinea-Bissau and to further strengthen coordination mechanisms. On 31 July, my Special Representative met with the Chief of General Staff of the Angolan Armed Forces, General Geraldo Sachipengo Nunda, who was visiting Guinea-Bissau and

Cape Verde within the framework of the Angolan technical security sector reform mission.

34. The discussions between my Special Representative and the various interlocutors focused on the need to act promptly to consolidate the gains made since the adoption of the security sector reform road map. The following measures were among those considered crucial for maintaining the momentum: (a) the finalization of the list of defence and security personnel selected for retirement; (b) the finalization of contractual arrangements between the Government and the bank selected for the disbursement of the pension fund allocations; (c) the disbursement of an initial deposit by the Government as its seed contribution to the pension fund; and (d) the preparation of a timeline of activities relating to the demobilization and retirement of the beneficiaries of the pension fund.

35. On 9 August, the Prime Minister opened a meeting of the National Security Sector Reform Steering Committee in his capacity as Chair of the inter-ministerial committee on security sector reform. The national authorities confirmed their intention to gradually contribute up to $4.5 million to the pension fund for the period 2011-2015. They requested continued assistance from the international community in implementing security sector reform and organizing a high-level event on such reform in the last quarter of 2011. On 2 September, the Government of Guinea-Bissau announced that it had deposited $200,000 in the pension fund bank account as its initial contribution, and committed to disbursing an additional $300,000 by the end of 2011.

36. Coordination also improved among national and international stakeholders with the operationalization of the four technical working groups of the National Security Sector Reform Steering Committee, which include representatives of the Government and bilateral and international partners. The working groups cover the following areas: (a) disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and the pension fund; (b) recruitment, military instruction and training; (c) infrastructure and equipment; and (d) the legal framework. The United Nations assisted the Steering Committee in the preparations for the second phase of the awareness-raising campaign on security sector reform, which was launched in September.

37. At the legislative and administrative levels, the President promulgated the organic law on the armed forces on 3 July, while on 5 August the Government signed the umbrella contract with the bank selected to host the pension fund, paving the way for donors to transfer contributions.

D. Human rights and gender monitoring, protection, promotion, capacity-building and mainstreaming

38. On 22 July, the military court sent the case related to the June 2009 political assassinations back to the Prosecutor General, declaring itself not competent in the matter. On 28 August, lawyers representing the families of the victims filed a lawsuit against the Government, charging it with libel and violation of privacy for having falsely accused the victims of preparing a coup d'état and for having illegally recorded private telecommunications related to the alleged coup attempt.

39. From 26 June to 1 July, a multidisciplinary assessment mission comprising representatives of the National Human Rights Commission, UNIOGBIS, UNICEF,

UNDP, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and civil society organizations visited the region of Gabú to assess the human rights situation. The key findings included: (a) the justice system was of poor quality; (b) there was an urgent need to rehabilitate basic infrastructure and services; (c) the judiciary lacked independence; (d) there was a high level of violence against women and children; and (e) there was insufficient decentralization of State institutions. The mission addressed a series of recommendations to the Government and civil society organizations, including: (a) the adoption of a national strategy for human rights protection to enhance respect for human dignity and citizenship, to promote a culture of peace and to prevent impunity, including through the training of traditional authorities; (b) the strengthening of the role of civil society organizations as human rights defenders; (c) the strengthening of the capacity of law enforcement officials in criminal procedures; (d) the decentralization of State administration, particularly the Judiciary Police, and the establishment of sectoral courts and an Access to Justice Centre in the region of Gabú; (e) the promotion of basic economic, social and cultural rights; and (f) the creation of legislation on land ownership to reduce land disputes and the frequency of homicide.

40. In view of precarious detention conditions in the two regional prisons in Mansoa and Bafatá, recently rehabilitated with the support of the Peacebuilding Fund, UNIOGBIS assisted the Ministry of Justice with the holding of two training workshops in August for the personnel of the prisons. The training focused on the treatment of prisoners, the role of prison guards in human rights protection, the use of force, minimum standards for the treatment of detainees, the rights of prisoners and detainees, special categories of prisoners, and gender responsiveness in the work of prison guards. The Government has taken steps to establish an interdisciplinary working group to support prisons and detention centres and to ensure respect for international standards.

41. UNICEF supported the Ministry of the Interior, the Institute of Women and Children, and the Bissau Municipal Council in holding a training workshop on 19 and 20 July for police and local businessmen on the dangers of sexual exploitation and abuse in public areas in Bissau. The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness of existing laws and institutional roles and responsibilities. Furthermore, on 13 and 14 September the Ministry of Justice held a child protection workshop aimed at creating synergies among criminal justice and child protection stakeholders, with support from UNIOGBIS and UNICEF. The workshop resulted in the setting-up of a committee of experts to contribute to the drafting of a national plan on juvenile justice, which will assist the Government in harmonizing national legislation with relevant international agreements, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Committee, which is composed of representatives of the Ministries of Justice and the Interior and child protection experts, will also monitor the enforcement of newly adopted legislation against female genital mutilation and human trafficking.

42. UNIOGBIS supported a training workshop for 40 members of the National Human Rights Commission from 1 to 2 August on the Paris Principles and cooperation with civil society. The objective was to strengthen the capacity of national human rights institutions, including the National Human Rights Commission, in human rights protection and promotion. UNIOGBIS also continued

to provide technical support to the Government with regard to the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee on human rights and with a view to strengthening the role of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights. The assistance of the Office is aimed at strengthening the national coordination of human rights activities and strategies, as well as improving the development of national policies and facilitating the implementation of the recommendations of the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council. In response to those recommendations, the President, on 5 July, promulgated legislation against female genital mutilation and human trafficking.

43. UNIOGBIS and the United Nations country team further mainstreamed human rights into their programmes, including the United Nations Framework for Peace and Development in Guinea-Bissau. The United Nations also contributed to the mainstreaming of human rights and gender into the second national poverty reduction strategy paper, which now includes the fight against structural inequalities between women and men as a national priority, and to the process of drafting the national gender policy.

44. UN-Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) also assisted national authorities in carrying out a study on gender-based violence, which will serve as a basis for the development of a national strategy for the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence. On 18 August, UNFPA sponsored a national workshop on ethics, human rights and reproductive health held in Bissau, in close collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Justice. A total of 118 participants, including parliamentarians, staff members of the Ministries of Health and Justice, and representatives of the media, civil society organizations and United Nations agencies, attended the event. At the end of the workshop, participants signed a declaration of commitment to using a human-rights-centred approach in dealing with maternal mortality.

45. During the reporting period, UNIOGBIS continued to support the establishment of a subdirectorate for gender and the protection of vulnerable people within the Public Order Police, with a particular focus on the training of personnel on appropriate technical procedures for crime scene preservation and on special police procedures for incidents of domestic violence and crimes involving victims of sexual and gender-based violence. As a result, on 26 June the Public Order Police implemented a new statistical data control system for the effective tracking of cases relating to gender-based matters and the protection of vulnerable persons.

E. Support for national efforts to combat illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and human trafficking

46. Within the framework of the West Africa Coast Initiative, the United Nations Office in West Africa convened the first meeting of the Initiative's High-level Policy Committee, which was chaired by my Special Representative for West Africa in Dakar on 20 June. The Minister of Justice of Guinea-Bissau and representatives of UNIOGBIS also attended the meeting, whose objective was to set strategic direction for supporting the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan to address the growing problem of illicit trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to fighting drug trafficking and organized crime in West Africa, and reviewed the achievements and challenges of the implementation

of the Initiative in the pilot countries, including with the establishment of Transnational Crime Units in Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Meeting participants recommended the holding of a donor conference to gain wide international support for concrete measures under the Initiative, and the organization of the next meeting of its Programme Advisory Committee, in Bissau in October.

47. On 22 June, the Council of Ministers of Guinea-Bissau approved the 2011-2014 national operational plan for combating drug trafficking and organized crime, developed with technical assistance from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UNIOGBIS. The document is accompanied by a political declaration that reaffirms the strong commitment of Guinea-Bissau to combating drug trafficking and organized crime. It also serves as the country's contribution to the implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan for the period 2008-2011 to address the problem of illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa.

48. The support provided by UNODC focuses on law enforcement, criminal justice and the reduction of the demand for illicit drugs. In August, the Governments of Italy and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland contributed, respectively, €100,000 for the continued rehabilitation of the prison system in Guinea-Bissau and $40,000 to the law enforcement portfolio. The two projects will be implemented by UNODC.

F. Support for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund

49. The Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, visited the country on 1 and 2 September. The Chair held meetings with national authorities and representatives of the international community in Bissau, as well as with civil society organizations and the press, during which she reaffirmed the Commission's support for security sector reform. The Government requested the assistance of the Commission in organizing a high-level event in New York to mobilize resources for security sector reform. The Chair subsequently convened a meeting of the Guinea-Bissau configuration in New York, upon her return, to discuss the main outcomes of her visit and the way forward. She informed the members of the configuration that she had witnessed visible signs of progress in terms of both political stability and economic growth in the country, as well as concrete achievements in the areas of macroeconomic stability, fiscal discipline and infrastructure development. Members of the configuration agreed that the Commission would present a list of elements for the Government's consideration to assist with preparations for the proposed high-level event on security sector reform, especially with regard to the operationalization of the pension fund. On 24 September, the Chair wrote to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guinea-Bissau, listing those elements with a view to facilitating the development of an operational plan that would include the number of beneficiaries of the pension fund, cost estimates and an implementation time frame.

50. Following the approval on 21 July by the Peacebuilding Support Office of the peacebuilding priority plan for Guinea-Bissau for the period 2011-2013, a $16.8 million allocation for its implementation was made available to the country. In September, the project implementation documents covering the areas identified in

the priority plan were finalized in a joint effort by the United Nations and the Government. The priority areas include the strengthening of democratic institutions and the rule of law, reform in the security institutions and the revitalization of the economy. Under the Peacebuilding Fund's gender promotion initiative, a project proposal entitled "Quick and multilevel impact for women's economic empowerment and improvement of working conditions in Guinea-Bissau" was submitted to the Peacebuilding Support Office on 2 August. The project has been approved by the Support Office, which will soon release funding for its implementation.

51. The projects funded under the first Peacebuilding Fund allocation were concluded during the reporting period. The two rehabilitated military barracks in the Quebo and Gabú regions were handed over to the Ministry of Defence at an official ceremony on 10 August. The final external evaluation of the first allocation began on 12 September and will have been finalized by the end of October 2011.

G. Regional cooperation, partnerships and resource mobilization

52. At the 16th ordinary meeting of its Council of Ministers, held in Luanda on 22 July, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries approved the road map on security sector reform that it had developed together with ECOWAS. It commended member States for their contribution to security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau, in particular the Angolan technical security sector reform mission, the Brazilian technical military mission and the Portuguese programme of support for justice and security, which are already contributing to the attainment of the objectives set out in the road map. The Council of Ministers also urged the presidency of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries to begin preparations, in consultation with the Government of Guinea-Bissau and ECOWAS, for the holding of an international donor conference to mobilize additional financial resources for the implementation of the road map.

53. The Foreign Minister met with the President of the ECOWAS Commission and the current Chair of ECOWAS on 16 and 19 August, respectively, on the margins of the ECOWAS meeting of Foreign Ministers held in Abuja, to highlight for the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government the urgency of implementing the road map. In order to speed up the process, the national authorities drafted a memorandum of understanding to be signed by the Government, ECOWAS and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, spelling out the modalities for the implementation of the road map, an indispensable condition for the disbursement of the $63 million allocated by the ECOWAS Heads of State to fund such implementation. On 19 August, the Foreign Minister delivered a letter from President Sanhá to the President of Nigeria, Goodluck Jonathan, appealing for his assistance, as Chair of ECOWAS, in facilitating the quick disbursement of the ECOWAS funds. In my interaction with President Jonathan, I have continued to appeal to his leadership in facilitating the disbursement of the funds pledged by ECOWAS to ensure the implementation of the road map, including the operationalization of the pension fund. The President has reaffirmed the support of Nigeria and ECOWAS for peace and security in Guinea-Bissau and the subregion.

54. On 26 September, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Angola and Nigeria, representing the presidencies of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

and ECOWAS, respectively, co-chaired the eighth working session of the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau in New York, on the margins of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly. Participants recommended further consultations towards the urgent adoption of the memorandum of understanding among the Government of Guinea-Bissau, ECOWAS and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries to facilitate the implementation of the security sector reform road map.

IV. Cross-cutting issues

A. Integration of the United Nations system joint strategic workplan

55. During the reporting period, the United Nations country team and UNIOGBIS prepared a midyear implementation report on the joint strategic workplan presented in my previous report. In the areas of governance, democracy and political dialogue, progress was made towards the completion of the preparatory phase of the national conference. The National Assembly is committed to an inclusive and consultative constitutional review process. Within the scope of the consolidation of democratic institutions, UNDP continued to work closely with key partners, including the European Union, to mobilize financial and technical support for the 2012 legislative elections. In terms of economic growth and poverty reduction, UNDP is also supporting the finalization of the priority action and public investment plans, and the preparations for the holding, early in 2012, of a donor round table to mobilize resources for the implementation of the second national poverty reduction strategy paper. In the areas of security sector reform and the rule of law, following the completion of the first phase of the process of vetting and certifying security institutions, the United Nations helped to strengthen linkages among law enforcement, prosecutorial and judicial authorities, thus binding together justice and security institutions in an overall programme of reform, enhancing the sustainability of improvements. In addition, the United Nations initiated consultation and advocacy with partners to mobilize resources for the operationalization of the security sector reform pension fund.

56. The midyear implementation report on the joint strategic workplan highlights the need to involve Government officials more closely in the outcome groups of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the period 2008-2012. The approval of the peacebuilding priority plan paved the way for the development of joint programmes involving the various United Nations agencies and UNIOGBIS in the areas identified in the plan.

57. The United Nations has drawn up a road map for the preparation of a new planning cycle for the period 2013-2017. The road map outlines the steps to be taken for the development of a new United Nations integrated planning framework that provides a coherent response to the priorities outlined in the second national poverty reduction strategy paper. In this regard, a strategic planning retreat was held on 1 and 2 August with the aim of identifying main development and peacebuilding challenges in the country, analysing the comparative advantages of the United Nations system and identifying the priorities in addressing those challenges.

B. Public information

58. As part of its capacity-strengthening programme aimed at assisting the media in their contribution to political dialogue and national reconciliation, the United Nations Communications Group carried out 18 on-the-job training sessions for five private and Bissau-based community radio stations. The programme has been extended to include the State television service. UNIOGBIS also held a workshop on security sector reform on 27 and 29 September, which was attended by 24 journalists, and sponsored a bimonthly programme broadcast by State television, focusing on the upcoming national conference and on reconciliation and political dialogue.

59. At its July 2011 session, the National Assembly approved a legislative package to regulate the media sector. The legislation covers freedom of the press, the status of journalists and political propaganda in the media. The Guinea-Bissau journalists' union held its congress from 18 to 20 August to analyse a new media electoral coverage code of conduct, elect new leadership and discuss the role of the press with regard to reforms in the country. UNIOGBIS, UNDP and the European Union's electoral project for African Portuguese-speaking countries and Timor-Leste funded the congress.

60. On 13 September, a journalist from Radio Bombolom, a Bissau-based private radio station, was taken to the Office of the Chief of General Staff of the armed forces by five persons, two of whom were wearing military uniforms. The military denounced the content of the morning programme presented by the journalist, which they considered to be sensitive and to have the potential to contribute to ethnic conflict in the country. According to the journalists' union, the programme had been broadcast without the authorization or approval of the station's management. Union leadership subsequently met with the Chief of General Staff, who presented his apologies to Guinea-Bissau's journalists. The journalist was released hours later, and the Chief of General Staff explained that no one at this time of relative political and security stability wished to see any ethnic confrontations fuelled by media or politicians.

C. Staff safety and security

61. There were no significant security incidents or direct threats against the United Nations or its personnel or their dependants during the reporting period. All security measures applicable to United Nations staff continued to be strictly enforced.

V. Observations

62. The forthcoming national conference offers a timely and historic opportunity for the people of Guinea-Bissau to turn a new page and embark on an irreversible process that seeks to close the door to the death, destruction and divisions of the past and to open the way towards a brighter future based on genuine national reconciliation and unity. It is time to focus on what unites, not what divides the people and their society, because only by working together will the people of Guinea-Bissau attain long-term stability, which is indispensable for sustainable development and the urgent improvement of living conditions for the population.

63. I commend the Government for the great strides it has made in implementing public finance and administration reforms over the past three years. Those achievements are beginning to show tangible results, with the Government increasingly relying on domestic resources alone to pay salaries and invest in development and the provision of social services. I urge the Government to persevere and consolidate these gains as it begins to focus on other major challenges linked to reforms in the defence and security sectors and to efforts to create an enabling environment for private-sector development. I also welcome the finalization of Guinea-Bissau's second-generation poverty reduction strategy paper and encourage the Government to engage with its development partners with a view to ensuring its swift and successful implementation, including through the convening of the planned donor round table to secure appropriate funding.

64. I welcome the steps taken by the national authorities to finalize preparations for the demobilization and reintegration of military and police personnel earmarked for retirement. The allocation by the Government of Guinea-Bissau of $200,000 as an initial contribution to the pension fund account, and its commitment to increasing its contribution by the end of 2011, are signs of the country's readiness to rapidly jump-start the security sector reform implementation process aimed at rejuvenating and professionalizing the military and security sectors. The Government's recent inauguration of the first model police station, established with the assistance of the United Nations, is another concrete demonstration of the national resolve to accelerate the restoration of State authority and re-establish adequate public security conditions for the population.

65. As the national authorities strive to stay the course on these courageous reforms, I call on Guinea-Bissau's regional and international partners to continue to be supportive by providing the necessary financial and material resources. In particular, the disbursement of pledges made to support the security sector reform programme in Guinea-Bissau is essential to help the Government bridge the funding gap.

66. I remain concerned at the fact that conditions do not appear to be in place to ensure the impartiality and credibility of the process of the investigations into the 2009 political assassinations in Guinea-Bissau. Progress in the fight against impunity depends in large part on the successful implementation of crucial reforms in the justice sector. I therefore call on the Guinea-Bissau authorities to reinforce their efforts to carry out and conclude a thorough and credible judicial process with respect to the 2009 killings and to implement the commitments that the Government has made to introduce judicial reforms overall.

67. I also encourage national authorities to continue to step up their efforts to fight against drug trafficking and organized crime, and appeal to the international community to provide increased support to the Government in this particularly challenging sector, especially to help strengthen national logistical capacities in order to confront this threat more effectively.

68. On 31 December 2011, the mandate of UNIOGBIS will expire. Following recent consultations with the Government, I recommend that the mandate be renewed for another year, until 31 December 2012, to allow the mission to continue to implement its integrated peacebuilding agenda, in support of national efforts to achieve long-term stability. I also recommend that the Security Council consider

changing the reporting cycle from every four months to every six months, so as to provide for more focused reporting on meaningful and measurable progress.

69. If its mandate is extended, UNIOGBIS will, in the coming year, continue to work in close cooperation with national authorities and with the other international partners of Guinea-Bissau, with a particular focus on accelerating the implementation of the reforms in the defence, security and justice sectors, strengthening the rule of law and human rights, and fighting drug trafficking, organized crime and impunity, as well as promoting national dialogue. Peacebuilding efforts will focus on young people and women, social and political participation and employment.

70. I would like to conclude by commending the staff of UNIOGBIS, under the leadership of my Special Representative, Joseph Mutaboba, and the entire United Nations country team led by my Deputy Special Representative, Gana Fofang, as well as national and international non-governmental organizations and other partners, for their continued contribution to sustainable peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau.